AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer implemented</u> method <u>for dynamically composing and maintaining applications over a computer architecture</u> comprising:

    receiving an indication to dynamically integrate a component into an executing application<u>, wherein the component includes a new component to replace an existing component</u>;

    loading the component; ~~and~~

    linking the component to the application by[[:]]

    obtaining the component's integration interface, the integration interface comprising methods for managing the component<u>,</u>[[;]] and

    invoking an initialize method of the integration interface<u>; and</u>

    <u>invoking a replace method of the integration interface, the replace method to transition an existing state of the existing component into the new component</u>.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, <u>further</u> ~~additionally~~ comprising supporting the component's ability to allow other components to communicate with it by:

    invoking a publish method of the integration interface and specifying one or more interfaces to publish to other components; and

    storing the one or more interfaces in an interface clearinghouse.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further ~~additionally~~ comprising

supporting the component's ability to communicate with other components by:

consulting the interface clearinghouse to determine one or more interfaces to

   retrieve from other component;

invoking a retrieve method of the integration interface and specifying an interface

   of the one or more interfaces to retrieve from other component; and

using the retrieved interface to communicate with other components.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further ~~additionally~~ comprising

invoking a stop method of the integration interface when the component is ready

to be shut down.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the application resides ~~is~~ in

a network, and the ~~said~~ loading of the component comprises retrieving the

component from a member in the network.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the member comprises a peer.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the peer comprises another component

loader in the network.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the member comprises a host in the

network.

10.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a client computer system; and

a server computer system coupled with the client computer system, the server

computer system including

a component loader to load requested components of a plurality of

components into an application, the plurality of components

corresponding to an application, and each implementing an

integration interface having

a number of methods for managing loaded components,[[;]]

an initialize method to transition a given component into a state to

operate, and

a stop method to transition the given component into a destroy

state,

an interface clearinghouse to store and manage interfaces corresponding to

the loaded components,[[;]] and

a messaging mechanism for external entities to communicate with the

loaded components.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, additionally wherein the server

computer system further comprises comprising a replace state to replace an old

component with a new component by transitioning an existing state of the old

component to the new component.

13.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the application resides

is-in a network, and the said-loading of the component further comprises

retrieving the component from a member in the network.

14.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a storage device;

a client computer system coupled with the storage device; and

a server computer system coupled with the client computer system, the server

computer system including

an integration interface having a plurality of methods for managing a

component,[[;]]

at least one component that implements the integration interface,[[;]]

a components repository for storing the at least one component,[[;]]

a communications bus, wherein the communication bus is established after

at least one call to a publish method and a retrieve method of the

integration interface, and

a component framework corresponding to an application to manage the at

least one component using the integration interface, the component

framework having[[:]]

a component loader to load requested components from the

components repository into an application,[[;]]

an interface clearinghouse to store and manage interfaces

corresponding to the loaded components,[[;]] and

a messaging mechanism for external entities to communicate with

the loaded components.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, ~~additionally comprising a~~ wherein the communication bus is to facilitate ~~for~~ inter-component ~~components~~ communication.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the application resides ~~is~~ in a network, and the ~~said~~ loading of the component comprises retrieving the component from a member in the network.

18. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets ~~sequences~~ of instructions, the sets ~~sequences~~ of instructions which, when executed by a machine ~~processor~~, cause the machine ~~processor~~ to:

receive an indication to dynamically integrate a component into an executing

application, wherein the component is a new component;

load the component; ~~and~~

link the component to the application by[[:]]

obtaining the component's integration interface, the integration interface

comprising methods for managing the component,[[;]] and

invoking an initialize method of the integration interface; and

replace an existing component by invoking a replace method of the integration interface, the replace method to transition an existing state of the existing component into the new component.

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, the sets of instructions causing the machine processor-to further additionally-support the component's ability to allow other components to communicate with it by:

invoking a publish method of the integration interface and specifying one or more interfaces to publish to other components; and

storing the one or more interfaces in an interface clearinghouse.

21.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 20, the sets of instructions causing the machine processor-to further additionally-support the component's ability to communicate with other components by:

consulting the interface clearinghouse to determine one or more interfaces to retrieve from other component;

invoking a retrieve method of the integration interface and specifying an interface of the one or more interfaces to retrieve from other component; and

using the retrieved interface to communicate with other components.

22.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the application resides is-in a network, and the said-loading of the component

comprises retrieving the component from a member in the network.

23.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor; and

a machine-readable medium having instructions encoded thereon, which when

    executed by the processor, are capable of directing the processor to[[:]]

    receive an indication to dynamically integrate a component into an

        executing application, wherein the component is a new

        component,[[;]]

    load the component,[[;]] and

    link the component to the application by[[:]]

        obtaining the component's integration interface, the integration

            interface comprising methods for managing the

            component,[[;]] and

        invoking an initialize method of the integration interface, and

    replace an existing component by invoking a replace method of the

        integration interface, the replace method to transition an existing

        state of the existing component into the new component.

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, the instructions causing the

processor to further additionally support the component's ability to allow other

components to communicate with it by:

invoking a publish method of the integration interface and specifying one or more

interfaces to publish to other components; and

storing the one or more interfaces in an interface clearinghouse.

26.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, the instructions causing the

processor to further additionally support the component's ability to communicate

with other components by:

consulting the interface clearinghouse to determine one or more interfaces to

retrieve from other component;

invoking a retrieve method of the integration interface and specifying an interface

of the one or more interfaces to retrieve from other component; and

using the retrieved interface to communicate with other components.

27.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for loading requested components of a plurality of components into an

application, the plurality of components corresponding to an application,

and each implementing an integration interface having a number of

methods for managing loaded components, wherein the integration

interface including

means for transitioning a given component into a state to operate, and

means for transitioning the given component into a destroy state;

means for storing and managing interfaces corresponding to the loaded

components; and

means for external entities to communicate with the loaded components.

28.   (Cancelled)

29.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, further ~~additionally~~ comprising means for replacing an old component with a new component by transitioning an existing state of the old component to the new component.

30.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the application resides ~~is~~ in a network, and the ~~said~~ means for loading the component comprises means for retrieving the component from a member in the network.